



Triangle H Farms

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To: House Committee on Water

From: Tyler Hands, Managing Partner, Triangle H Farms

RE: **Written-only testimony in opposition to 2459**, Prohibiting the change of the point of diversion of a water right if such change causes the safe yield of the source of water supply to be exceeded.

Chairman Minnix and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on House Bill 2459.

My name is Tyler Hands and I am a Producer and Managing Partner of Triangle H Farms. Triangle H Farms is a family owned production agriculture operation in Southwestern Kansas. The entity was established in 1974, however, the family has been farming the same land for five generations. Triangle H farms approximately 9,000 acres of irrigated ground and an additional 10,000 dry-land acres. A vast majority of the land is irrigated by center pivot systems that rely on seventy wells.

Through determination and grit, our farming operation has grown since my great-great grandfather moved to Kansas from England to farm. In addition to the significant output from the farm into the global food supply-chain, fifteen families rely directly on the operation for income. To that end, I hope my comments today explain why I am concerned with the legislation proposed in House Bill 2459.

The wells on our acreage have a shelf-life and require maintenance, and sometimes re-drilled, which requires the point of diversion. The concern is that with the language in House Bill 2459, we would be significantly limited in the event that we need to drill a new well and potentially wouldn't be able to even replace wells that are no longer functioning. The reduction in wells could reduce outputs and impact both the livelihood of the families that have tended that land for generations, as well as impact the supply-chain.

While I appreciate the intent by the Legislature to take water seriously, especially given the importance of the resource to people across the state, I still have strong concerns about the proposed language in this bill.

Our family farm has been in existence for over 110 years, contributing to the economy not just in Southwest Kansas, but the whole state. As a producer, I know fully the value that water is a resource. Producers are good stewards of their land, and this language places undue constraints, hindering our ability to adapt and manage our resources. This bill could jeopardize crop production and economic viability.

Thank you for the opportunity to express concerns regarding House Bill 2459, and I ask that the committee exercise caution in supporting language that could have undue consequences to producers across the state.